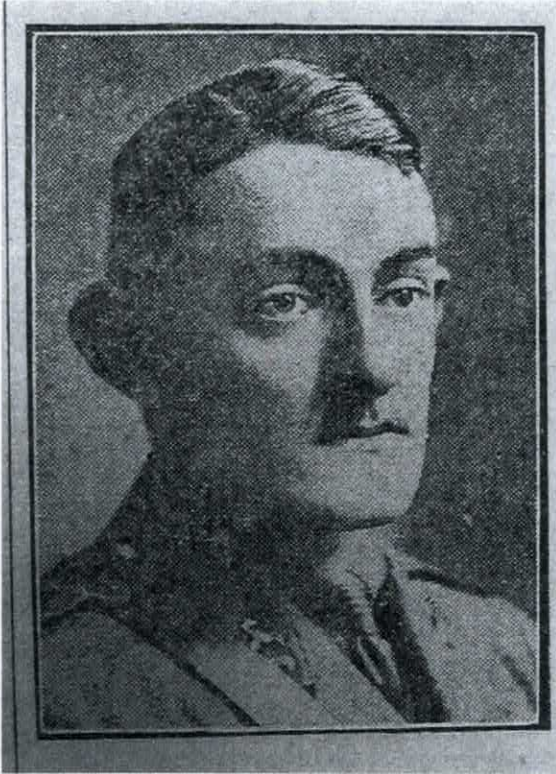


## DAWSON Gerald Moore



### Death of an All-round Athlete.

#### Hooton Officer Loses His Life.

Many friends on both sides of the Mersey will greatly regret to hear of the death of Lieut. Moore Dawson, of "West Oakfield," Hooton, and of the King's Liverpool Regiment, who was killed in action in France on Sunday, 2nd July, 1916. The lieutenant, whose death at the early age of 22 has cut short a promising career.

Lt. Gerald Dawson was a member of the OTC while at Liverpool College and attained the rank of sergeant. On the outbreak of war he joined one of the new battalions which were formed in Liverpool, 18<sup>th</sup> Btn King's (Liverpool) Regiment known as The Pals and obtained his commission. After rendering valuable service in training recruits at Hooton

Hall, he went to Knowsley Hall for some months, also to train recruits. Lt Dawson proceeded to the front in April 1916. He had the reputation with his brother-officers of being a most efficient officer and was popular with all ranks. He was killed in action at the Somme on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1916. His body was not recovered but he is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial and remembered on his parents' grave in Willaston Churchyard.

Gerald Moore Dawson was the second son of Dr and Mrs Moore Dawson of West Oakfield Hooton. He was born in Liverpool and baptised in Willaston Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1893. His father was a physician and surgeon with a practice in Rodney Street and the family lived at 77, Upper Parliament Street, Liverpool. On retirement Dr and Mrs Moore Dawson moved permanently to Hooton.

The Liverpool College school magazine records:

*"He took a prominent part in school life as an all round athlete, was a keen boxer, played in the rugby team and was a prefect."* He belonged to the Debating Society and there are records of the debates in which he took part. On leaving he entered the offices of Messrs. Busby Sons and Beasley, cotton and colonial produce brokers. He subsequently entered the employment of Messrs Henry Tate and Son, Ltd., sugar refiners. Henry Tate was a family friend.

His obituary in a local paper described him as being a thorough sportsman, good all round athlete and prominent football player. Also, he would have had a promising career and his good nature, coupled with his modest and unselfish character, endeared him to his many friends.

He is featured in the Liverpool Pals book, A Singular Day on the Somme.



### **Other information**

#### **1911 Census**

Married status - single

Address – 77 Upper Parliament St. Liverpool

Father – Dr Thomas Moore Dawson, Physician and Surgeon who practised in Rodney St.

Mother – Jane Dawson 56 married 25 yrs born Tranmere

Brother - Thomas Wignall 20 apprentice sugar broker born Liverpool single

3 domestic female servants – Esther Risha Pace – 32

Elizabeth Cecil Johnson 28

Lela Davies 22 all single

Gerald's brother, Thomas Wignall, was baptised by Walsham Postance at St.Mary for the Blind, Hardman Street, Liverpool on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1891. Walsham was married to a member of the Dawson family and was Vicar of Willaston from 1888 to 1920.

The Forces War Record records Gerald's parents living at West Oakfield, Hooton

Attended Liverpool College 1903-1912, see previous extracts from the school magazine.

#### **1901 census**

Head: Theodore Moore Dawson (this is an error, all other refs call him Thomas)

Wife: Jane

Son: Theodore W (but his baptism is Thomas Wignall) age 9

Son: Gerald M age 8

4 servants: waitress, cook, nurse, housemaid



Hooton Hall was built by and for the Stanley family. It was used during the First World War as a military hospital, but was demolished in 1935. In 1917 Hooton Park airfield was built on the estate in order to train pilots from Canada and the United States.

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